

their registration. The bill also codifies DEA's authority to ensure accuracy of registrations and limits the transfer of such registrations.

Again, I want to thank the lead sponsor of this bill, Representative GRIFFITH for his leadership, and I also thank Ranking Member WALDEN and the members of our committee for their bipartisan support.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4812, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, November 16, 2020.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,  
Chair, Committee on Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Energy and Commerce and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4812, the Ensuring Compliance Against Drug Diversion Act of 2020, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will place our letters on H.R. 4812 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, JR.,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, November 16, 2020.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE, JR.,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE: This is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 4812, the "Ensuring Compliance Against Drug Diversion Act of 2019," that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H.R. 4812, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,  
Chairman.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4812, the Ensuring Compliance Against Drug Diversion Act spearheaded by Energy and Commerce Committee colleague Representative MORGAN GRIFFITH. I thank Mr. GRIFFITH for his leadership on this and many other pieces of legislation.

This legislation addresses a policy issue that was identified again in our 2018 Energy and Commerce Committee report summarizing the committee's bipartisan investigation into the distribution of prescription opioids by wholesale drug distributors and subsequent enforcement practices by the DEA.

The investigative report that we issued found that an opioid distributor and its pharmacy customer did not go through the appropriate process of transferring a registration to a new pharmacy owner. This is disturbing, because failing to appropriately contact the DEA and verify whether the agency approved the transfer of a registration to dispense controlled substances creates a serious risk that could lead to drug diversion.

In order to prevent people who have not been vetted by the authorities from dispensing controlled substances, H.R. 4812 makes clear that the transfer of any controlled substance registration without written consent from the DEA will be prohibited.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I have no speakers at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH), who has been a real workhorse on this and many other pieces of legislation.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4812, the Ensuring Compliance Against Drug Diversion Act.

This is a small but very important step that could play a key role in helping contain the opioid epidemic.

License to distribute opioids is not a commodity to be freely bought and sold. Those who wish to distribute opioids must earn the ability to do so.

An investigation performed by the Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee found that the current process of transferring controlled substance dispensation licenses does not create sufficient accountability.

In the one instance you heard about before, a distributor and its pharmacy customer did not go through the appropriate process of transferring registration to a new pharmacy owner, but the mistake wasn't caught until long afterward. As a result, there was a period of time during which the DEA was unaware that particular pharmacy was distributing controlled substances.

Now, in this case, as best I understand it, there was not a rogue indi-

vidual, it was just a matter of an oversight. But what we are trying to do with this bill today is to make sure that in the future we don't have some rogue individual that comes in and buys somebody else's business or their license or their registration and doesn't go back to the DEA to get proper registration.

Failing to appropriately contact the DEA and verify whether the agency approved a transfer creates a serious risk of drug diversion, and this bill amends the Controlled Substances Act to prohibit that transfer of any DEA registration without written consent from the agency.

By requiring written approval from the DEA before the transfer of registration occurs, we decrease the risk of drug diversion by keeping controlled substances out of the hands of people that have not been vetted by the appropriate regulatory authorities.

Madam Speaker, that is the purpose of the bill. I appreciate everyone's support on it.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I again thank the gentleman from Virginia for his leadership on this and so much other legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4812, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RELIABLE EMERGENCY ALERT DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6096) to improve oversight by the Federal Communications Commission of the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6096

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reliable Emergency Alert Distribution Improvement Act of 2020" or the "READI Act".

#### SEC. 2. RELIABLE EMERGENCY ALERT DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENT.

(a) WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS SYSTEM OFFERINGS.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Section 602(b)(2)(E) of the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201(b)(2)(E)) is amended—

(A) by striking the second and third sentences; and

(B) by striking “other than an alert issued by the President.” and inserting the following: “other than an alert issued by—

“(i) the President; or

“(ii) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.”.

(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall adopt regulations to implement the amendment made by paragraph (1)(B).

(b) STATE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLANS AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEES.—

(1) STATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall adopt regulations that—

(A) encourage the chief executive of each State—

(i) to establish an SECC if the State does not have an SECC; or

(ii) if the State has an SECC, to review the composition and governance of the SECC;

(B) provide that—

(i) each SECC, not less frequently than annually, shall—

(I) meet to review and update its State EAS Plan;

(II) certify to the Commission that the SECC has met as required under subclause (I); and

(III) submit to the Commission an updated State EAS Plan; and

(ii) not later than 60 days after the date on which the Commission receives an updated State EAS Plan under clause (i)(III), the Commission shall—

(I) approve or disapprove the updated State EAS Plan; and

(II) notify the chief executive of the State of the Commission’s approval or disapproval of such plan, and reason therefor; and

(C) establish a State EAS Plan content checklist for SECCs to use when reviewing and updating a State EAS Plan for submission to the Commission under subparagraph (B)(i).

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Commission shall consult with the Administrator regarding the adoption of regulations under paragraph (1)(C).

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term “SECC” means a State Emergency Communications Committee;

(B) the term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States; and

(C) the term “State EAS Plan” means a State Emergency Alert System Plan.

(c) FALSE ALERT REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to establish a system to receive from the Administrator or State, Tribal, or local governments reports of false alerts under the Emergency Alert System or the Wireless Emergency Alerts System for the purpose of recording such false alerts and examining the causes of such false alerts.

(d) REPEATING EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM MESSAGES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to modify the Emergency Alert System to provide for repeating Emergency Alert System messages while an alert remains pending that is issued by—

(A) the President;

(B) the Administrator; or

(C) any other entity determined appropriate under the circumstances by the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator.

(2) SCOPE OF RULEMAKING.—Paragraph (1) shall—

(A) apply to warnings of national security events, meaning emergencies of national significance, such as a missile threat, terror attack, or other act of war or threat to public safety; and

(B) not apply to more typical warnings, such as a weather alert, AMBER Alert, or disaster alert.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impair, limit, or otherwise change—

(A) the authority of the President granted by law to alert and warn the public; or

(B) the role of the President as commander-in-chief with respect to the identification, dissemination, notification, or alerting of information of missile threats against the United States, or threats to public safety.

(e) INTERNET AND ONLINE STREAMING SERVICES EMERGENCY ALERT EXAMINATION.—

(1) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and after providing public notice and opportunity for comment, the Commission shall complete an inquiry to examine the feasibility of updating the Emergency Alert System to enable or improve alerts to consumers provided through the internet, including through streaming services.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after completing the inquiry under paragraph (1), the Commission shall submit a report on the findings and conclusions of the inquiry to—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(2) the term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission;

(3) the term “Emergency Alert System” means the national public warning system, the rules for which are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and

(4) the term “Wireless Emergency Alerts System” means the wireless national public warning system established under the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.), the rules for which are set forth in part 10 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6096.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 6096, the Reliable Emergency Alert Distribu-

tion Improvement Act of 2020, or the READI Act, as it is known.

In times of crisis, Americans rely on communication systems to stay informed, check on loved ones, and access emergency assistance. Emergency alerts, in particular, are an effective mechanism for relaying lifesaving information to the American public in an instant.

The emergency alert system, or EAS, is one tool we have to issue such messages. Typically, an EAS message is originated by officials from local, State, Tribal, or Federal governments, known as alerting authorities. The messages are disseminated to the public by operators of broadcast cable and satellite TV or radio.

□ 1345

The Wireless Emergency Alert system, or WEA, on the other hand, allows emergency managers and other alert originators to distribute geographically targeted emergency messages to wireless customers’ devices at a moment’s notice.

Over recent months, Madam Speaker, local and State officials in California and Oregon have used geo-targeted emergency alerts to inform residents about wildfires and evacuation orders.

Simply put, our emergency alerting systems save lives, but there is plenty of room for improvement.

My colleagues may recall an incident that took place in Hawaii in January 2018 when the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency mistakenly issued an emergency alert through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Integrated Public Alert and Warning System.

The alert warned the public of an inbound ballistic missile threat, although there was no such threat. It was intended to be a routine test of the system, but the supervising officer who dictated the language of the drill mistakenly included the phrase, “This is not a drill,” causing confusion among the shift officers responsible for transmitting the alert to the public.

With five words, Hawaii was sent into a frenzy, which lasted about 38 minutes, until a follow-up notice was sent out correcting the error.

Now, there are more than 1,000 alerting authorities across the United States that rely on emergency alerting systems to notify the public of everything from law enforcement situations to evacuation and stay-at-home orders, child abductions, and natural disasters.

While the Hawaii incident was deemed an accident caused by human error, it is clear that there are gaps that must be addressed, and that is what this bill does.

The READI Act will ensure that there is better coordination between the Federal agencies that deal with emergency communications and their partners at the State and local levels. Specifically, the bill calls on the Federal Communications Commission to work with State Emergency Communications Committees to develop and

update State plans to identify and close any gaps in protocol or accountability.

The READI Act also requires the FCC to study and report to Congress on the feasibility of expanding participation in the Emergency Alert System to include streaming services and internet platforms and whether such an action would increase the reach and reliability of emergency alerts.

Madam Speaker, I commend Representative JERRY MCNERNEY for his leadership on this bill, especially as his constituents and neighbors all across California continue to grapple with the fallout from these historic wildfires.

Madam Speaker, I also thank Ranking Member WALDEN and subcommittee Ranking Member LATTA for working with us to move this legislation through the Energy and Commerce Committee on a bipartisan basis.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I also thank Senator SCHATZ, who is leading this legislation in the Senate.

This is a really good bill that will make emergency alerts more effective and reliable, to keep our friends and neighbors safe when it matters most.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the READI Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, November 10, 2020.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE, JR.,  
*Chairman, Committee on Energy & Commerce,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PALLONE: I write concerning H.R. 6096, the READI Act. There are certain provisions in this legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 6096, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure agrees to forgo action on the bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill would not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I also request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H.R. 6096 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

PETER DEFazio,  
*Chair.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, November 13, 2020.

Hon. PETER A. DEFazio,  
*Chairman, Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEFazio: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Energy and Commerce and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6096, the Reliable Emergency Alert Distribution Improvement (READI) Act of 2020, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 6096 into the committee report on the bill and into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, JR.,  
*Chairman.*

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 6096, the READI Act. This legislation will help improve the Federal Communications Commission's oversight over the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems, something that is much needed in a new age of communication.

This year, our Nation was hit by horrific and deadly wildfires that destroyed entire communities. My district and many parts of Oregon witnessed this situation with catastrophic fires that moved very, very rapidly, caused incredible and historic destruction, and will take years for people to recover.

Our Emergency Alert System is so important during these times, and we need to make sure it delivers for Americans when they need it most. In some parts of my State, it worked flawlessly. In other parts, they are reviewing what worked and what didn't work.

I daresay I am probably the only Member of Congress who actually has wired in Emergency Alert System components because we used to own radio stations. So I have pushed the buttons, and I have done the alerts, all of that. I know how important that coordination is and how important it is to work together ahead of time to really understand the plans and who triggers what and how it works going forward. Because when the emergencies do hit, there isn't time to come up with a plan. You need to have that in place.

This bill will help establish State Emergency Communications Committees, develop Emergency Alert System plans, and coordinate those plans with the FCC. This type of coordination allows States the independence to tailor their plans to their specific needs and to alert citizens during emergencies that are specific to their localities.

However, the bill also allows the FCC to review the plans to ensure States and other localities have considered any necessary technical issues so that there is consistency across the plans in the case of multistate or national emergencies.

Importantly, this bill requires coordination not only with the experts on telecommunications technology but also with the experts on emergency

management, FEMA. The FCC will ensure State plans have considered the necessary technical requirements, while FEMA ensures consistency regarding the types of emergency alerts.

This type of State and national coordination will make sure that all Americans receive alerts during emergencies and that those alerts make sense, and that will no doubt save lives and property.

Madam Speaker, that is why I am happy to support this forward-looking bill to improve the Emergency Alert System management at all levels, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

I would just close my comments with a brief story about one of these practice emergency sessions in my hometown on a Saturday morning. It was a full-fledged one. All the various resources in the area were to be engaged. The theory was that one of the mainstem Columbia River dams had breached and that there would be massive flooding. So, that was kind of the idea: What do you do in a mass casualty situation like that?

Fortunately, the gentleman who worked Saturday mornings at our local radio station had been around the block a few times. He was actually a retiree who just liked working, doing an old radio show on Saturday mornings. When they got the call and told him he needed to trigger the Emergency Alert System because Bonneville Dam had been breached, he said, "Okay. I understand that is the practice, but I am not going to actually go on air and say the dam has been breached."

Because he had been around a little bit, he pushed back on the emergency folks who were going by the letter of the plan and decided not to create one of these events like occurred in Hawaii by saying, "I don't think we really want to say that, even though this is a practice." I think we headed off probably a little bit of a problem there.

Madam Speaker, this is important, and these plans are important. I thank my colleagues for their work on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY), the sponsor of the legislation and a member of our committee.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 6096, the READI Act.

The emergency alerting system and the wireless emergency alerting system provide safe, lifesaving tools to disseminate information during emergencies.

In recent years, we have seen devastating fires in my home State of California, including the Tubbs fire; the Camp fire, which was the deadliest wildfire our Nation has faced in the last century; and the Kincadee fire.

This year, we have seen some of the largest and most devastating fires in

the State's history, with a record of more than 4 million acres burned and more than 8,100 fires across the State. Nearly every part of the great State of California has been touched by wildfires this season. These events demonstrate that we must improve the reliability of emergency alerts.

As we continue to battle COVID-19, this year's wildfire season has also presented unprecedented challenges for firefighters, emergency managers, and the public, particularly when it comes to evacuations. This makes it even more crucial that we have emergency alerting systems in place that are both robust and reliable.

This legislation will improve the current wireless emergency alerting system, and emergency alerting systems more broadly, so that my constituents and Americans across the country can count on receiving these alerts when faced with emergencies, including wildfires.

H.R. 6096 will ensure that more people receive critical emergency alerts on their mobile devices, televisions, and radios, and will pave the way for examining the feasibility of issuing alerts through online audio and video streaming services.

Additionally, this legislation will help States improve their plans for emergency alerting, and it will establish a reporting system for false alerts.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues, including Representative BILIRAKIS, Mr. OLSON, and Ms. GABBARD, for working with me on the READI Act, as well as Senators SCHATZ and THUNE for their leadership on this legislation in the Senate.

Madam Speaker, I also thank Chairman PALLONE and Ranking Member WALDEN, and Chairman DOYLE and Ranking Member LATTI, for their working with me to move this legislation through the committee.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 6096.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a State that has dealt with a lot of disasters over the years and will in the future, to talk about this important legislation.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the time very much.

This legislation builds upon the IPAWS Modernization Act, which I authored and which became law in 2016.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. McNERNEY), the chairman of the committee, and the ranking member. It has been a great pleasure to serve with all of them on this committee, and I want to continue to serve on this committee. It is the best committee in Congress, as far as I am concerned, the original committee.

That bill enhanced the Nation's emergency alert texting system and implemented training programs for States. I am talking about the IPAWS Modernization Act, Madam Speaker.

The READI Act builds upon our prior efforts and will ensure more people receive critical emergency alerts on their mobile phones, televisions, and radios.

It really works well, Madam Speaker. I am from the great State of Florida, and we had hurricane warnings for the last couple of weeks for Eta. I was on the other coast, the east coast, even though I represent the west coast, visiting friends on the east coast, and I got the alert on the east coast even though the threat was on the west coast. So, you know, you have to have planning. And it really works very well. It saves so many lives.

It also paves the way for examining the feasibility of issuing alerts through online streaming services, an ever-popular platform, I understand.

Even more importantly, this bill will help States improve emergency alert plans and establish reporting systems for false alerts.

I am pleased that this potentially lifesaving legislation has come to a floor vote. The effectiveness and accuracy of information during an emergency should always be a top priority, and it is.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I don't believe I have any other speakers on our side of the aisle on this legislation, so I would urge its passage.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I ask my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6096, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### UTILIZING STRATEGIC ALLIED TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 2020

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6624) to support supply chain innovation and multilateral security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6624

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Utilizing Strategic Allied Telecommunications Act of 2020" or the "USA Telecommunications Act".

#### SEC. 2. WIRELESS SUPPLY CHAIN INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available under subsection (d), the Assistant

Secretary shall, beginning not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, make grants on a competitive basis to support the deployment and use of Open RAN 5G Networks throughout the United States by—

(1) promoting the use of technology, including software, hardware, and microprocessing technology, that will enhance competitiveness in the supply chains of Open RAN 5G Networks;

(2) accelerating the deployment of Open Network Equipment;

(3) promoting the use of Open Network Equipment;

(4) establishing objective criteria that can be used to determine if equipment meets the definition of Open Network Equipment;

(5) promoting the inclusion of security features that enhance the integrity and availability of Open Network Equipment; or

(6) promoting the application of network function virtualization to facilitate the deployment of Open RAN 5G Networks and a more diverse vendor market.

(b) GRANT CRITERIA.—The Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Commission, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (commonly known as "DARPA"), and the Director of the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (commonly known as "IARPA"), shall establish the criteria under which the Assistant Secretary shall award a grant under subsection (a).

#### (c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT ON GRANTS MADE.—For each fiscal year for which amounts are available to make grants under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that includes, with respect to that fiscal year—

(A) a description of—

(i) to whom grants under subsection (a) were made, the amount thereof, and criteria used to award such grants; and

(ii) the progress the Assistant Secretary has made in meeting the objectives described in subsection (a) of the grant program under this section; and

(B) any additional information that the Assistant Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) REPORT ON 5G NETWORK SUPPLY CHAIN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a written report—

(A) that includes recommendations on promoting the competitiveness and sustainability of trusted Open RAN 5G Networks; and

(B) identifying whether any additional authorities are needed by the Assistant Secretary to facilitate the timely adoption of Open Network Equipment, including the authority to provide loans, loan guarantees, and other forms of credit extension that would maximize the use of grant amounts awarded under this section.

#### (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) AMOUNT AUTHORIZED.—There is authorized to be appropriated to make grants under subsection (a) \$750,000,000 for fiscal years 2021 through 2031.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available under paragraph (1) shall remain available through fiscal year 2031.

#### SEC. 3. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Assistant Secretary shall establish an Advisory Committee to advise the Assistant Secretary in the manner described in subsection (c).

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Advisory Committee established under subsection (a) shall be composed of—